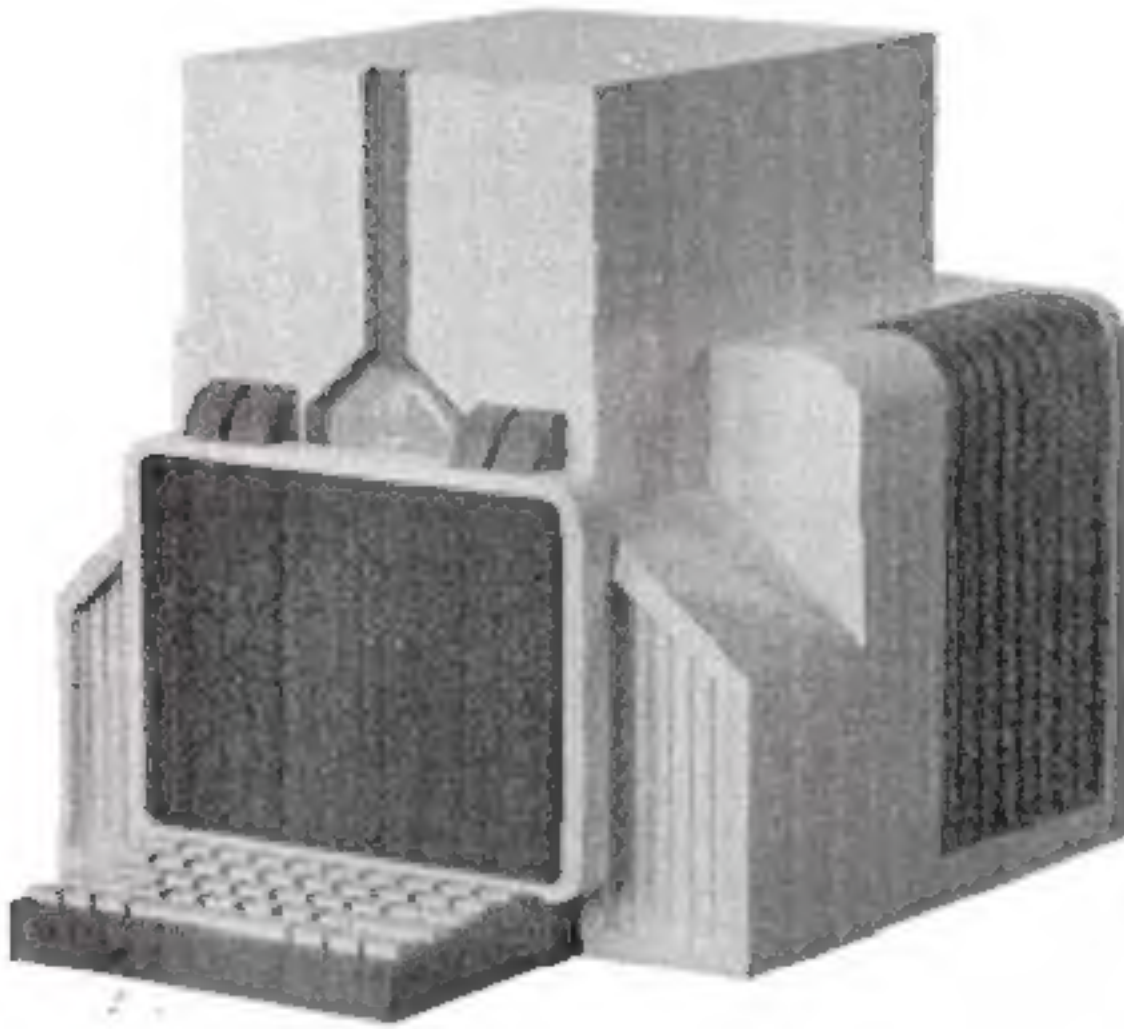


SOME MEDIocre SONGS



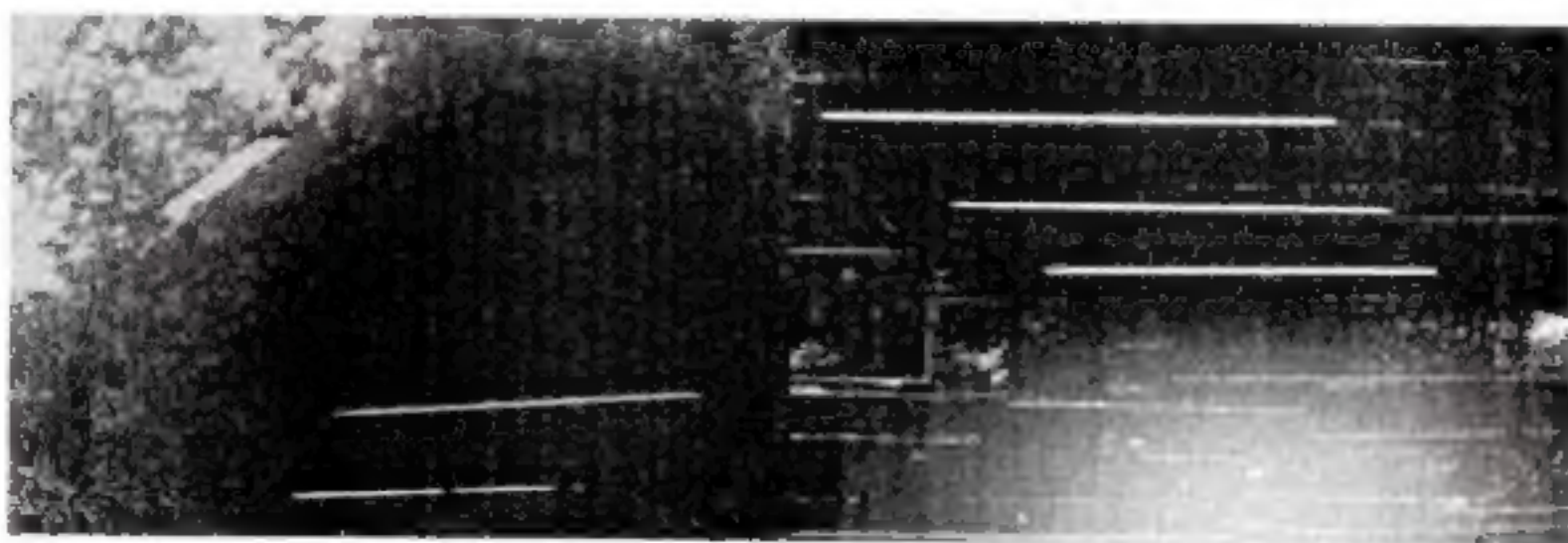
NO AGREEMENTS MINI-ZINE #4
ARTWORK BY PETER SULLIVAN

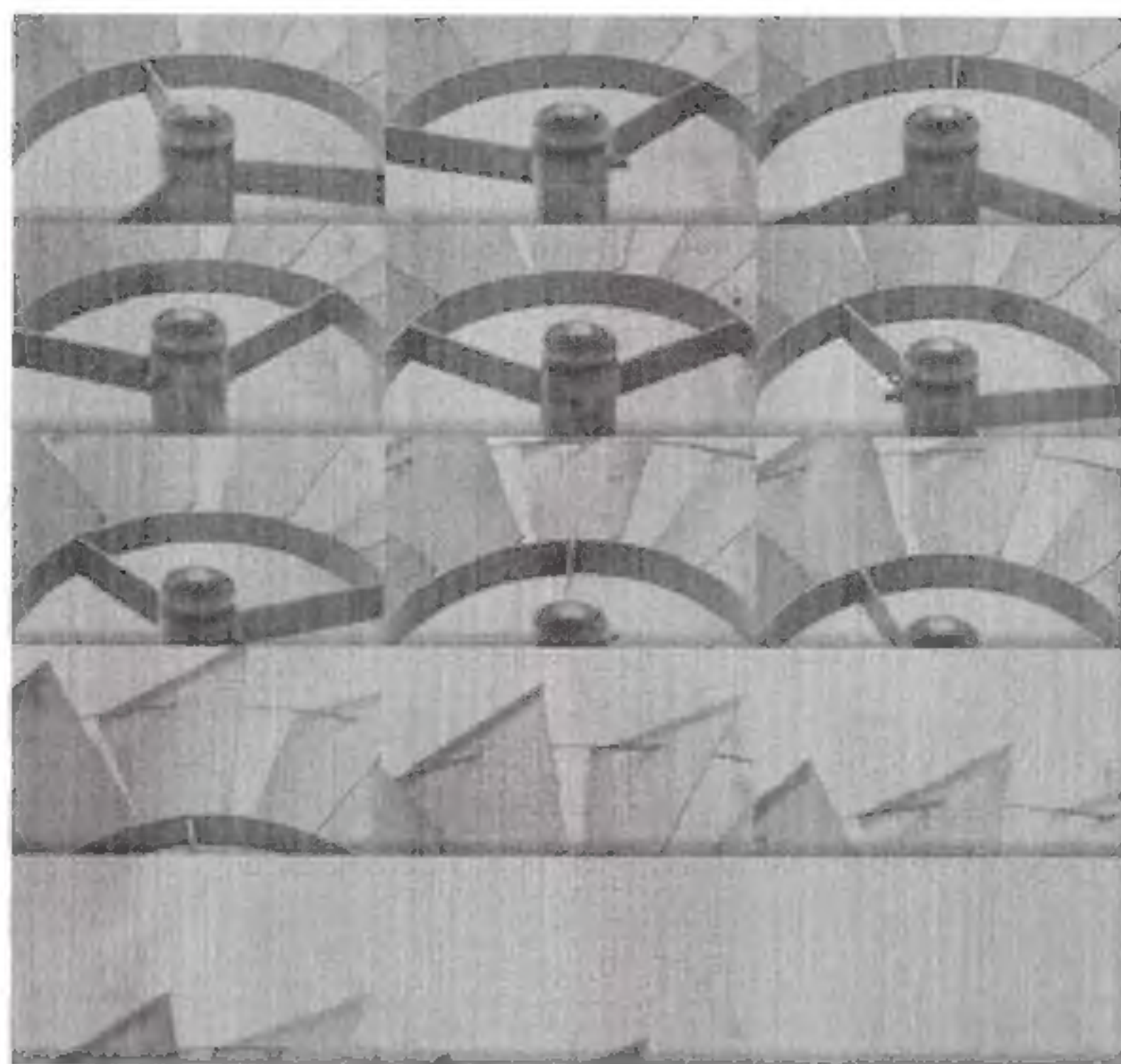
Writing & Photography : PB

dark room sitting
Computer screen glare
Blue screen initiating
Rebooting
Processing
Login
Access denied
Access denied
Access denied
Access granted
Change password
Save image
File already exists
Continue? (Y/N)
Y.
right click file
Delete file? (Y/N)
Y.



..
flipping through the pages of a computer
desk
bookmarking with a mere piece of string
daintily
it dangles from the leaf of the page
hesitantly
placing a coffee mug over it
ring
forming around the table from the liquid
wiped
clean of my history on the internet
purged
all traces of
who
i am, or
who
i was, or
who
i will be
corrupting
the digital self along with the physical
onwards
to new footprints to leave for others to discover
in
the
future
..





Drawing : Prismadoll



Gezicht in de Menigte / Face in the Crowd

Krullebol



tussen straten stroomt
door twee gezichten

figuren lopen
dansend op het geluid
van hun eigen voetstappen

klampt zich vast aan-
één en twee, en
tel terug en dan nog eens af
tot het ons raakt

biddend onder metalen hemels
lachend door onzichtbare lippen

tot het uit de lucht valt
en het geruis en geroezemoes in haar
aankomst verdwijnt

de oorverdovende stilte verstilt in de
aanwezigheid

voor heel even



through streets flows
between two faces

figures walking
dancing to the sound
of their own footsteps

takes a hold of-
one and two, and
count back then down again

praying beneath metal skies
laughing through invisible lips

until it falls from the sky
and the noise and chatter
disappear into its arrival

the deafening silence goes quiet in its
presence

for just a moment





photography : mandegreen





No Agreements Manifesto #1

Sometime in the Spring of 2020 I was in a discord call with Christtt (owner of Business Casual) when he had said something that really struck a chord with me.

I can't requote it exactly, but the way it sits in my head is "when I first started out, nobody wanted to release my stuff so I said fuck it I'll start my own label and release it myself".

This is the sort of attitude that the world of alternative art forms strives off of and the sort of mindset that has continued to belong to people who really play a role in the eventual reinvention of the artistic wheel.

Another interesting thing I heard came from the former Dream Catalogue owner HKE when listening to him discuss his theory on "the end of music". His theory itself I don't know if I fully agree with, but one idea he shared completely changed the way I looked at music itself.

Similarly I can't quote it exactly, but to put the content of his idea into a quote it went along the lines of "vaporwave has put the aesthetics and packaging of music in the forefront of musical development" and "Birth of a New Day itself is just a solid ambient record, the context of the cover art, album title, and narrative illuminates a vision in the listeners mind".

These ideas don't form a consistent narrative or exact point to be fair, but something that undeniably I have learned from not just these but many artists I know including my contemporaries in the label such as Material Girl, Broken_Canyon, or PB is that artistic evolution will always come from those who have been questioned most at one point or another. This is because to evolve art means to abandon what you think you know and embrace uncertainty which is the scariest thing of all.

When I had really shifted No Agreements into gear earlier this year, I told a collaborator of mine something that has somewhat acted as this core element of how I approached who I brought on board this project. It goes along the lines of "anyone can learn to use a piece of software or to become a better songwriter, you can't learn to have a vision and that's the number one criteria for who I want to approach".

So here I am now in the hot seat of helping lead an artistic movement and my eyes have been dead set on doing my best to bring forward unique visions from all genres, all places in the world, and most of all, to make these voices never compromise their visions. It requires artists who are willing to be laughed at or not treated seriously, and those artists stick through with what they believe anyway. It's a tough and lonely path, but I'm hoping to make it a bit easier by highlighting these sounds and artists.

Let it be known though, that I am just one voice. I may help run this label, but the ideas of those in our group are what helps me never get too comfortable (as that is to stop reinventing yourself or experimenting).

Christtt had a vision that others didn't believe in, and he decided to start his own label. HKE challenged what dictates a musical genre, and his theory is slowly becoming more and more relevant.

In 2021, I'm committing to highlighting visions that I believe to be at their most radical and purest degree and to continue to highlight visions I find to be personally unique. This is what No Agreements has always been about at heart.

It's funny, because No Agreements never started out as a name intended to mean much of anything. I don't want to spoil the original reasoning for its naming, as I feel it being a mystery is what makes it special. But I find myself these days starting to realize it has grown to have meaning.

No Agreements is a policy in which artists come and go as this is a way of life.
No Agreements is a policy in which artists never agree to compromise their vision.
No Agreements is a policy that nothing in life is guaranteed, and that your plans could fall apart the very next second.

So live it up right now.

Sincerely,
City Light Mosaic